

Johnson, Krista

From: noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
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Topic Revocation of federal funding for WBPU-LP

BCC Agenda Date 2-14-2023

Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

Comments

re: Meeting Name: Board of County Commissioners Meeting date/time: 2/14/2023 9:30 AM Commissioner Latvala proposed to revoke ARPA funding for African People's Education and Defense Fund. He stated the following: "a problem with funding radio equipment rather than other social services" and "numerous reasons they should not ever receive funding from this board" (American Rescue Plan Act, the federal COVID-19 relief program) To Whom It May Concern about WBPU-LP 2/18/2023 The station was licensed and came into existence about six years ago as a non-profit public service. They have been in full compliance. I have been volunteering about four hours a week since December 2021 in a technical capacity to help with FCC license requirements and studio equipment maintenance. My qualifications include a degree in computer science and holding a current amateur radio license. I have helped aspiring young people learn to do some things I do on the station's behalf. For example, I have shown youngsters how to inspect the infrared signal from a hand-held remote control by observing it with a smartphone camera. These people will share what they learn and inspire others to improve their lives and their community. I strongly believe in their need for a voice and the general benefits of a community radio station. Operating with equipment that is nearing obsolescence becomes a liability and expensive responsibility. There is also a present need for equipment operable by visually impaired talent which has inspired "three blind mice" and other tactile devices that must be fabricated if we cannot buy them. Community radio stations play an important role in promoting local voices, diversity, and civic engagement, while providing a valuable source of local news, information, and educational programming. Volunteering at a community radio station can also be a rewarding experience, providing opportunities for skill development, networking, giving back, and personal growth. I hope they can receive the grant they successfully petitioned for last year. Christopher John Clement 612

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